## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

- 1. (currently amended): A multi-stage process for the polymerization of olefins comprising:
  - (I) a first polymerization stage, wherein one or more olefins of the formula CH<sub>2</sub>=CHR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, a cycloalkyl and an aryl radical, are polymerized in one or more reactors, in the presence of a catalyst comprising the product of the reaction between an alkyl-Al compound and a solid component comprising at least one compound of a transition metal M<sup>I</sup> chosen from Ti and V, and not containing M<sup>I</sup>-π bonds, and a halide of Mg, in order to produce an olefinic polymer having porosity, expressed as the percentage of voids, greater than 5%;
  - (II) a treatment stage, wherein the product obtained in said first polymerization stage (I) is, in any order whatever:
    - (a) optionally contacted with a compound capable of deactivating the catalyst used in stage (I); and
    - (b) contacted with a late transition metal complex, optionally in the presence of a suitable activating agent; and
  - (III) a second polymerization stage, wherein one or more olefinic monomers are polymerized in one or more reactors, in the presence of the product obtained from stage (II)[[.]];

wherein the amount of polymer produced in the first polymerization stage (I) is between 10 and 90% 99% by weight relative to the total amount of polymer produced in stages (I) and (III).

- 2. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in stage (I), said alkyl-Al compound is a trialkyl-Al, an alkyl-Al halide or an alkyl-Al sesquichloride, said halide of Mg is MgCl<sub>2</sub> and said compound of a transition metal M<sup>I</sup> is selected from the group consisting of halides of Ti, halo alkoxides of Ti, VCl<sub>3</sub>, VCl<sub>4</sub>, VOCl<sub>3</sub> and halo alkoxides of V.
- 3. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 2, wherein said compound of a transition metal M<sup>I</sup> is selected from the group consisting of TiCl<sub>4</sub>, TiCl<sub>3</sub> and halo

- alkoxides of the formula  $Ti(OR^I)_mX_n$ , wherein  $R^I$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_{12}$  hydrocarbon radical or a -COR<sup>I</sup> group, X is halogen and (m+n) corresponds to the oxidation state of Ti.
- 4. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in stage (I), said solid component is in the form of spherical particles having a mean diameter ranging from 10 μm to 150 μm.
- 5. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst used in stage (I) comprises the product of the reaction between an Al-alkyl compound, an electron-donating compound (external donor) and a solid component comprising at least one compound of a transition metal M<sup>I</sup> selected from Ti and V and not containing M<sup>I</sup>-π bonds, a magnesium halide and an electron-donating compound (internal donor).
- 6. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 1, wherein the porosity of the olefinic polymer obtained in the first polymerization stage (I) is greater than 10%.
- 7. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 6, wherein more than 40% of said porosity is due to pores with diameter greater than 10,000 Å.
- 8. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in the treatment stage (II)(a), said compound capable of deactivating the catalyst used in stage (I) has formula R<sup>IV</sup><sub>y-1</sub>XH, wherein R<sup>IV</sup> is hydrogen or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> hydrocarbon radical, X is O, N, or S, and y corresponds to the valence of X.
- 9. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 8, wherein said compound capable of deactivating the catalyst used in stage (I) is selected from the group consisting of H<sub>2</sub>O, NH<sub>3</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S, CO, COS, CS<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and O<sub>2</sub>.
- 10. (previously presented): The multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in the treatment stage (II)(b), said late transition metal complex has the formula (I) or (II):

LMX<sub>p</sub>X'<sub>s</sub> (I) LMA (II)

wherein M is a metal belonging to Group 8, 9, 10 or 11 of the Periodic Table;

L is a bidentate or tridentate ligand of the formula (III):

$$\begin{bmatrix} R^1_m & E^1 \end{bmatrix}^B = \begin{bmatrix} E^2 & R^1_n \end{bmatrix}^q$$
 (III)

wherein:

B is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>50</sub> bridging group linking E<sup>1</sup> and E<sup>2</sup>, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to Groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table;

E<sup>1</sup> and E<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are elements belonging to Group 15 or 16 of the Periodic Table and are bonded to said metal M;

the substituents  $R^1$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkylidene,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements (such as B, Al, Si, Ge, N, P, O, S, F and Cl atoms); or two  $R^1$  substituents attached to the same atom  $E^1$  or  $E^2$  form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms; m and n are independently 0, 1 or 2, depending on the valence of  $E^1$  and  $E^2$ , so to satisfy the valence number of  $E^1$  and  $E^2$ ; q is the charge of the bidentate or tridentate ligand so that the oxidation state of  $MX_pX^*_s$  or MA is satisfied, and the compound (I) or (II) is overall neutral;

X, the same or different from each other, are monoanionic sigma ligands selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, -R, -OR, -OSO<sub>2</sub>CF<sub>3</sub>, -OCOR, -SR, -NR<sub>2</sub> and -PR<sub>2</sub> groups, wherein the R substituents are selected from the group consisting of linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table of the Elements (new IUPAC notation); or two X groups form a metallacycle ring containing from 3 to 20 carbon atoms;

X' is a coordinating ligand selected from mono-olefins and neutral Lewis bases wherein the coordinating atom is N, P, O or S;

p is an integer ranging from 0 to 3, so that the final compound (I) or (II) is overall neutral;

s is an integer from 0 to 3; and A is a  $\pi$ -allyl or a  $\pi$ -benzyl group.

11. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said bridging group B is selected from the group consisting of:

B-19

B-20

B-18

$$R^{2}$$
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{2}$ 
 $E^{4}$ 
 $E^{4$ 

wherein G is an element belonging to Group 14 of the Periodic Table; r is an integer ranging from 1 to 5;  $E^3$  is an element belonging to Group 16 and  $E^4$  is an element belonging to Group 13 or 15 of the Periodic Table; the substituents  $R^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two  $R^2$  substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent  $R^1$  and a substituent  $R^2$  may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element.

- 12. (original): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein  $E^1$  and  $E^2$  are selected from the group consisting of N, P, O, and S.
- 13. (previously presented): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein the substituents R<sup>1</sup> are C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl groups; the substituents X are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, phenyl, Cl, Br and I; and p is an integer from 1 to 3.
- 14. (previously presented): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein

said ligand L corresponds to formula (V):

$$R^2$$
  $R^2$   $N-R^1$   $(V)$ 

wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the meaning reported in claim 10; the substituents R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two R<sup>2</sup> substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent R<sup>1</sup> and a substituent R<sup>2</sup> may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element;

M belongs to Group 10 of the Periodic Table; X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, Cl, Br and I; p is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

- 15. (previously presented): The multi-stage process according to claim 14, wherein the substituents R<sup>1</sup> are C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl groups, optionally substituted in the 2 and 6 positions with at least one of (a) alkyl groups containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and (b) halo groups; the substituents R<sup>2</sup> are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl and benzyl, or the two substituents R<sup>2</sup> form together a naphthylene group.
- 16. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (VI):

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc}
R^2 & R^2 & (VI) \\
R^1 & N & N-R^1
\end{array}$$

wherein the R<sup>1</sup> has the meaning reported in claim 10, the substituents R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen,

linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two  $R^2$  substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent  $R^1$  and a substituent  $R^2$  may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element; the metal M is Fe or Co; the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  ring is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

- 17. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 16, wherein the substituents  $R^2$  are hydrogen or methyl, and the substituents  $R^1$  are aryl rings.
- 18. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (VII):

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
R^{2} & R^{2} & R^{2} \\
R^{1} & N & N - R^{1} \\
R^{1} & R^{1}
\end{array}$$
(VII)

wherein  $R^1$  has the meaning reported in claim 1, the substituents  $R^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two  $R^2$  substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent  $R^1$  and a substituent  $R^2$  may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element; M belongs to group 10 of the Periodic Table, the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl,  $C_1$ ,  $C_2$  and  $C_3$  is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

19. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to one of formulae (VIII)-(XI):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the meaning reported in claim 10, the substituents R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two R<sup>2</sup> substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent R<sup>1</sup> and a substituent R<sup>2</sup> may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element; M belongs to Group 10 of the Periodic Table, the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, Cl, Br and I; p is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

20. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (XII):

wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the meaning reported in claim 10; the substituents R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or

two  $R^2$  substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent  $R^1$  and a substituent  $R^2$  may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element;  $R^{10}$ - $R^{12}$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two adjacent substituents  $R^{10}$ - $R^{12}$  form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 40 carbon atoms; the metal M is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Rh, Ni and Pd; the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, Cl, Br and I; p is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

21. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (XIII):

$$R^{15}$$
 $R^{14}$ 
 $R^{15}$ 
 $R^{16}$ 
 $R^{13}$ 
 $R^{1}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 

wherein  $R^1$  has the meaning reported in claim 10; the substituents  $R^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two  $R^2$  substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent  $R^1$  and a substituent

 $R^2$  may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element; the substituents  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{16}$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; the substituents  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{15}$ , the same or different from each other, have the same meaning as substituents  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{16}$ , optionally forming with an adjacent substituent  $R^{14}$  or  $R^{16}$  a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, or they are electron withdrawing groups; the metal M is selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni and Pd; the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, Cl, Br and I; p is 2 or 3; and s is 0.

22. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (XIV):

$$R^{14}$$
 $R^{15}$ 
 $R^{16}$ 
 $R^{13}$ 
 $R^{16}$ 
 $R^{16}$ 
 $R^{16}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 
 $R^{10}$ 

wherein R<sup>1</sup> has the meaning reported in claim 10; the substituents R<sup>2</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkoxy, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two R<sup>2</sup> substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent R<sup>1</sup> and a substituent R<sup>2</sup> may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub>

 $C_8$  ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element;  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{16}$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radical, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table;  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{15}$ , the same or different from each other, have the same meaning as  $R^{14}$  and  $R^{16}$ , optionally forming with an adjacent  $R^{14}$  or  $R^{16}$  a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic  $C_4$ - $C_8$  ring, or they are electron withdrawing groups; the metal M belongs to Group 10 of the Periodic Table, the X radicals are selected from hydrogen, methyl, allyl,  $C_8$ ,  $C_9$  and  $C_9$  in and  $C_9$  is 1 and 2 is 1.

- 23. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 22 wherein, in said ligand of formula (XIV), R<sup>1</sup> is aryl, substituted in at least one of the 2, 6 and 4 positions with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halogen, linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl groups, and a tertiary C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group; R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen or methyl; R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>16</sup> are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and methoxy; R<sup>13</sup> is selected from the group consisting of aryl, substituted in the 2 and 6 positions with branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>30</sub> alkyl groups, tertiary C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, NO<sub>2</sub> and halo; and R<sup>15</sup> is selected from the group consisting of aryl, tertiary C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group, –NO<sub>2</sub>, halo, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -SO<sub>3</sub>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R and -COO.
- 24. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 10, wherein said ligand L corresponds to formula (XV):

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{15} & R^{16} \\
R^{14} & N & N - R^{1} \\
\hline
 & (XV)
\end{array}$$

wherein  $R^1$  has the meaning reported in claim 10; the substituents  $R^2$ , the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkyl,  $C_1$ - $C_{20}$  alkoxy,  $C_3$ - $C_{20}$  cycloalkyl,  $C_6$ - $C_{20}$  aryl,  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  alkylaryl and  $C_7$ - $C_{20}$  arylalkyl radicals, optionally

containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; or two R<sup>2</sup> substituents form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms, or they form a polycyclic ring system, optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 elements; a substituent R<sup>1</sup> and a substituent R<sup>2</sup> may form a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, having from 4 to 20 carbon atoms and optionally containing one or more Group 13-16 element; the substituents R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>16</sup>, the same or different from each other, are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> alkylaryl and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>20</sub> arylalkyl radicals, optionally containing one or more atoms belonging to groups 13-17 of the Periodic Table; the substituents R<sup>13</sup> and R<sup>15</sup>, the same or different from each other, have the same meaning of substituents R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>16</sup>, optionally forming with an adjacent substituent R<sup>14</sup> or R<sup>16</sup> a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> ring, or they are electron withdrawing groups; the metal M belongs to Group 10 of the Periodic Table; the X radicals are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, Cl, Br and I, p is 2 or 3, and s is 0.

- 25. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in the treatment stage (II)(b), said activating agent is at least one of (a) an alumoxane and (b) a compound able to form an alkylmetal cation.
- 26. (withdrawn): The multi stage process according to claim 1 wherein, in the treatment stage (II), the product obtained in the first polymerization stage (I) is, in the following order:
  - (a) first contacted with said compound capable of deactivating the catalyst used in stage (I); and
  - (b) then contacted with said late transition metal complex, optionally in the presence of a suitable activating agent.
- (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 26 wherein, before step(b), any excess of said compound capable of deactivating the catalyst used in stage (I) is removed.

- 28. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 1, wherein the polymerization stage (I) is carried out in liquid phase, said liquid phase consisting of a hydrocarbon solvent or of one or more olefins CH<sub>2</sub>=CHR, and the polymerization stage (III) is carried out in gas phase, in at least one reactor with a fluidized bed or a mechanically-agitated bed.
- 29. (withdrawn): The multi-stage process according to claim 1, wherein both polymerization stages (I) and (III) are carried out in gas phase, in reactors with a fluidized bed or a mechanically-agitated bed.
- 30. (withdrawn): A catalyst component for the polymerization of olefins comprising a late transition metal complex supported on a polymeric porous support having a porosity, expressed as percentage of voids, greater than 5%.
- 31. (withdrawn): A catalyst component for the polymerization of olefins comprising a late transition metal complex supported on a polymeric porous support having a porosity, expressed as percentage of voids, greater than 5%, said catalyst component being obtained by a process comprising:
  - (I) a polymerization stage, wherein one or more olefins of formula CH<sub>2</sub>=CHR, wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> alkyl, a cycloalkyl and an aryl radical, in the presence of a catalyst comprising the product of the reaction between one or more alkyl-Al compounds and a solid component comprising at least one compound of a transition metal M<sup>I</sup> chosen from Ti and V, and not containing M<sup>I</sup>-π bonds, and a halide of Mg;
  - (II) a treatment stage, wherein the product obtained in the polymerization stage (I) is, in any order:
    - (a) optionally contacted with one or more compounds capable of deactivating the catalyst used in step (I); and
    - (b) contacted with one or more late transition metal complexes, optionally in the presence of a suitable activating agent.
- 32. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 30, wherein said late transition metal complex is supported in a quantity from  $1 \cdot 10^{-7}$  to  $1 \cdot 10^{-1}$  mmol per gram of polymeric porous support.

- 33. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 30, wherein said polymeric porous support has a porosity greater than 10%.
- 34. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 33, wherein more than 40% of the porosity is due to pores with diameter greater than 10,000 Å.
- 35. (withdrawn): A polymer composition obtained by the process of claim 1, characterized in that:
  - in said first polymerization stage a homo or copolymer of propylene is obtained, having a content of propylene units greater than 80 wt.% and cold xylene soluble fractions less than 40 wt.%, said homo or copolymer of propylene consisting of 10-90 wt.% of the total amount of polymer; and
  - in said second polymerization stage amorphous polyethylene is produced, having a number of total branching greater than 50 branches/1000 carbon atoms, a density from 0.830 to 0.880 g/cm<sup>2</sup>, and a Tg value less than -30°C.
- 36. (withdrawn): A polymer composition obtained by the process of claim 1, characterized in that:
  - in said first polymerization stage polyethylene, polypropylene or propylene/ethylene copolymer is produced, consisting of 10-90 wt.% of the total amount of polymer; and
  - in said second polymerization stage block polyethylene is produced, having a melting point from 100 to 130°C and a Tg value less than -30°C.
- 37. (withdrawn): A polymer composition obtained by the process of claim 1, characterized in that:
  - in said first polymerization stage, a copolymer of ethylene with one or more αolefins (LLDPE) is obtained, having a content of ethylene units of 80-99 wt.%,
    said copolymer of ethylene consisting of 10-90 wt.% of the total amount of
    polymer;
  - in the second polymerization stage, polyethylene is produced having a number of total branching greater than 5 branches/1000 carbon atoms and a density greater than 0.880 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

- 38. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 31, wherein said late transition metal complex is supported in a quantity from 1.10<sup>-7</sup> to 1.10<sup>-1</sup> mmol per gram of polymeric porous support.
- 39. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 31, wherein said polymeric porous support has a porosity greater than 10%.
- 40. (withdrawn): The catalyst component according to claim 39, wherein said polymeric porous support has a porosity greater than 10%.